Soil testing in Vidarbha, Maharashtra

†2000. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil test has been conducted by the Department of Agriculture of the Maharashtra Government in the villages of Vidarbha area, so that cultivation can be done as per the properties of soil of that region;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether suitable cultivation according to the soil of Vidarbha has not been started till date; and

(d) if so, by when new crop pattern will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The farmers are advised to apply manures and fertilizers for their crops, as per the analysis of the soil samples, and to grow crops as per soil type based on soil survey report.

(c) and (d) Cultivation of suitable crops according to the soil of Vidarbha has already started. However, the change in cropping pattern is a slow process as other factors like cost of cultivation, market price of particular crop, and individual farmers need also determine the cropping pattern.

Damage of crops by fog, hailstorm, etc. in Northern India

2001. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that potato, wheat and vegetable crops have been damaged in Northern India due to fog and heavy hailstorms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide any assistance to farmers whose crops have been damaged and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Special schemes for production of wheat, rice, etc.

†2002. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has selected hundred districts for running special schemes to increase production of wheat, rice and pulses in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.